Utilisation of mineral resources by State Governments

1444. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments can utilise the available mineral resources according to their priority under the Mines and Minerals Act, 1957;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intend to deprive the State Governments of their rights;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are prepared to pay 75 percent Production Link Payment (PLP) in case the bidding process is implemented;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) State governments grant mineral concessions for all minerals except petroleum and natural gas under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). However, in case of the minerals specified in the First Schedule of the MMDR Act prior approval of the Central Government is required before grant of mineral concessions by the State governments.

(c) There is no such proposal with the Central Government at present.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no provision for any bidding process under the MMDR Act.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Products of SSI

†1445. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the products of small scale industries in the country remain way behind in comparison to the imported products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that efforts made for the development of small scale industries in the past years have proved futile; and

(d) if so, the reasons for decrease in the number of products of small scale industries in the reserved list continuously during the recent years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the contrary, the exports of products manufactured by the small scale industries (SSI) continue to account for nearly 33 per cent of the total exports from India.

(c) No, Sir. The number of SSI units has grown from nearly 105.21 lakh in 2001-02 to about 118.59 lakh in 2004-05. This sector has also registered rate of growth in terms of value of production which has generally been than that of the rest of the inudstrial sector.

(d) There is no specific empirical evidence to suggest that the deletion of products from the reserved list during the recent years has, by itself, adversely affected the overall performance of the SSI which has been positive throughout these years. The de-reservation of products reserved for exclusive manufacture by the SSI is carried out with a view of enhancing, among other things, their competitiveness. Further, the total number of such reserved products at present constitutes just about 8.43 per cent of the total number of products actually manufactured by the SSI.

Package for SSIs

†1446. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to introduce incentive packages for Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the the criterion for the same;

(c) whether Government are considering to set any criterion for quality production in Small Scale Industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Though the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are primarily responsible for the promotion and development of small scale industries (SSI), the Central Government implements a number of schemes/ programmes to provide, among others, credit, infrastructure, marketing and technology upgradation support to the SSI sector.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.